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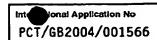
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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO HEATING OF FOOD PRODUCTS

(57) Abstract: A method of providing a heated food product comprising: sealing a pre-formed portion of food of essentially uniform thickness into an envelope of a film material, and cooking or heating the product by placing the resultant package between the plates of a clam-shell heater. The film used for the package is of a type which will form a rugged seal at freezer or ambient temperatures but which will vent at elevated temperatures and pressures with the result that as the food product is heated and steam pressure develops within the envelope, the envelope will self-vent. The envelope is removed when the food product is served, either immediately after heating or after an appropriate dwell time.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 865D81/34

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 - 865D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	
X	US 2001/036518 A1 (CABLE KEVIN ET AL) 1 November 2001 (2001-11-01) paragraph '0017! - paragraph '0034!; figures	2,3,5-10	
A	US 3 716 369 A (PERLMAN S) 13 February 1973 (1973-02-13) column 3, line 34 - column 5, line 2; figures; example 5	1,2,6,7	
A	US 4 387 551 A (COWAN DAVID A) 14 June 1983 (1983-06-14) column 3, line 23 - column 4, line 55; figures	1-10	

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
20 December 2004	29/12/2004
Name and malling address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	De Terlizzi, M

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT								
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A	figures	1,2						

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